

Mrs. Luce Declared Victim of Arsenic Poisoning From Paint Decorating Room

New York — (AP) — CIA agents have traced the cause of the recurring illnesses of Ambassador to Italy Clare Boothe Luce to arsenic poisoning from the white-painted roses on her bedroom ceiling.

Time Magazine, in its issue appearing Thursday, will say that for 20 months, Mrs. Luce had been breathing fumes, eating food and drinking coffee powdered with deadly white dust.

Tests showed that the borghian white roses in the bedroom of her 17th century Villa Taverna had been brushed and re-brushed with paint having a high content of arsenate of lead.

The magazine said the discovery was made more than a year ago and the poisoning was "one of the best kept secrets of U.S. diplomacy."

Condition Grew Worse
In the late summer of 1954, Mrs. Luce returned to the United States where after a long medical examination experts found she had symptoms of serious anemia and extreme nervous fatigue. Feeling better after two

months, she returned to Rome to face a full work load.

"In a short time," the magazine said, "all the symptoms appeared and some new and frightening ones developed. Her fingernails became brittle, broke at a slight tap. She began to lose blonde hair by the brushful. Her teeth were noticeably loosening. Worst of all, for a diplomat, she had become irritable."

Too busy to return to the U.S., Mrs. Luce went to the U.S. Naval hospital in Naples. A Navy nose-and-throat specialist asked if any of her medicines contained arsenic. None did. It was the first time arsenic had been men-

tioned in connection with her illness.

The Navy doctors sent their

North Bend Girl, 12, Loses Life in Creek

North Bend — (AP) — Oregon's week end drowning toll rose to three with the reporting here today of the death of 14-year-old Marcia Lynn Sundbaum of North Bend, Sunday.

Officers said the girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Sundbaum, drowned in Tenmile creek when she slipped from a life preserver she was wearing and sank in 14-foot of water.

findings and laboratory specimens to the laboratories of the U.S. Naval hospital in Bethesda, Md.

On the Navy's records the patient was fictitiously identified as "Seaman Jones." Back to Italy went the report: "Seaman Jones is a victim of arsenic poisoning." The news was relayed to Mrs. Luce while she was at home during the 1955 New Year's holidays.

No Suspects Found

Faced with political and diplomatic repercussions if the secret came out, the Central Intelligence Agency and embassy of-

ficials went quietly to work. All U. S. and Italian embassy employees were quickly investigated. No individual who had any contact with the ambassador seemed even remotely suspect.

The disconnected leads finally led to the high-ceilinged bedroom with its beams in terra cotta green and cluster upon cluster of roses and rosettes.

"Quick tests showed a high content of arsenate of lead," the magazine said. The experts also found that the heavily leaded paint exuded fumes in Rome's humid weather." Mrs. Luce, wife of Time-Life,

Editor-in-Chief Henry Luce, has been in the United States undergoing treatments to correct the arsenic induced condition since mid-May. Her general health is greatly improved, the magazine said.

She is scheduled to leave this week for a three-week Mediterranean cruise and then return

to Villa Taverna where its rosetted ceiling has since been redone in non-leaded paint.

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Southerners See Northern Backing On Civil Rights

Washington — (AP) — Outnumbered Southerners predicted today that "quite a few" Northern Republicans will support their fight to kill or weaken the administration's civil rights bill in the House.

But they conceded they were waging an uphill fight to block House passage and probably will have to depend on a threatened, or real, Senate filibuster to kill the bill.

Battle Begins Thursday

The House planned to wind up two days of general debate today and then lay aside the bill until Thursday when the hammer-and-tongs battle begins. The measure then will be thrown open to countless amendments and to innumerable delaying tactics planned by the Southerners.

Debate Monday was heated, but orderly, after the House rejected a Southern move to open the bill to immediate delaying tactics. The unrecorded vote against the move was 151 to 103.

Northerners Counted

Rep. William M. Colmer (D-Miss.) said he counted about 20 Northern Republicans—but not a single Northern Democrat—voting with the Southerners on that test vote. He expected support from "quite a few Northern Republicans" in the battle that lie ahead.

The bill would establish presidential commission on civil rights, create a civil rights division within the Justice department and authorize federal prosecutors to go into federal courts to protect the voting rights of Negroes and other minorities.

Illinois Auditor Gives Resignation

Springfield, Ill. — (AP) — Gov. William G. Stratton awaited word of assurance today from two men he has "in mind" to succeed Orville E. Hodge, who resigned as state auditor and as a Republican candidate for reelection.

Hodge resigned from office Monday at a conference with Stratton here in the face of mounting charges against the auditor's office concerning more than a half-million dollars worth of "questionable" state checks.

Meanwhile, a Sangamon county Grand Jury which opened its probe into the case here Monday was scheduled to hear from several witnesses today. At least two of the witnesses have indicated they will refuse to sign immunity waivers.

The Hodge resignation was announced at a news conference here by Stratton, who said that Hodge also was bowing out as the Republican candidate for reelection and as an Illinois delegate to the Republican National convention in San Francisco.

Stratton immediately accepted Hodge's resignation as auditor, and said he would call a meeting of the Electoral board of which he is president to act on Hodge's withdrawal as a candidate for reelection.

Coast Guard Plans Probe of Accident

Portland — (AP) — The Coast Guard was slated to open a formal investigation today into the boating accident on the Willamette river a week ago that took the life of a 13-year-old Portland girl.

Lt. Com. James W. Conway will conduct the investigation. Killed in the mishap was Gail Kryohok.

Witnesses at the time said the boat in which the girl and her 11-year-old sister were riding was struck by a power boat operated by Dr. George Eagon, of Portland.

Eagon was towing a pair of water skiers at the time of the accident. He managed to rescue the younger girl but was unable to reach the other girl in time to save her life.

ARTICLES FILED

Salem — (AP) — Articles of incorporation have been filed here for the Oregon Crane Service of Medford. They were signed by Cecile G. Somers, L. E. Blaker and Merle Blaker.

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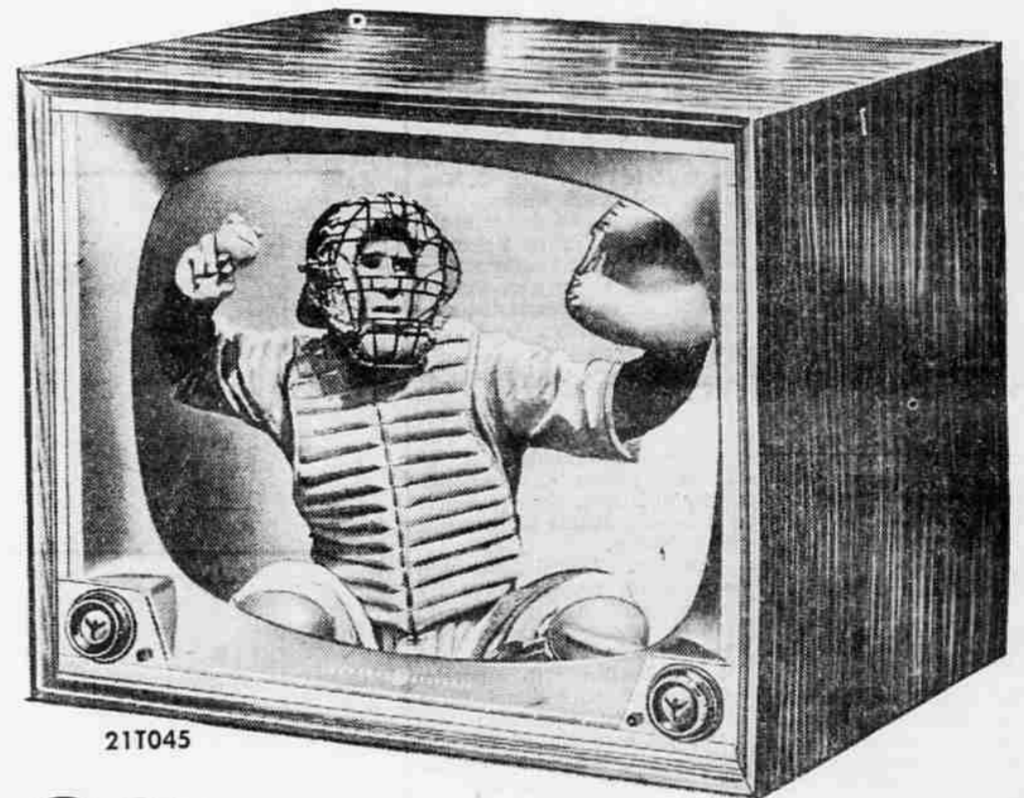
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